

# The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

## Danish Vaccination Records 1801-Present

### Class Handout: Intermediate

6 November 2019

For millennia smallpox disease was one of the single biggest killers of humanity. The disease primarily took the lives of small children and was frequently referred to as “children’s pox” in Denmark. In 1796, Edward Jenner discovered that vaccinating someone with cowpox would give them immunity to smallpox. Jenner’s inoculation first reached Denmark in 1801. In the 1800’s Denmark suffered a series of smallpox epidemics and starting on 3 April 1810, vaccination became required by state law. Although these records will not always be necessary to extend the line, they can act as an excellent substitute to the parish records.

### **Vaccination Law of 3 April 1810**

The most interesting parts of the vaccination law have been translated to English and included in this handout. For anyone interested in reading the whole law in the original Danish, that can be accessed at the following website: <http://danmarkshistorien.dk/leksikon-og-kilder/vis/materiale/forordning-om-koppevaccination-1810/>

#### Article 6

- All doctors and surgeons... shall, in evidence of their enforced vaccination, make notification of anyone who has been fortunate enough to receive treatment. **A certificate of such must be created**, and to which authorized affiliates must be sent by the authorities for distribution to the person concerned; however, such testimonials must not be admitted to anyone other than those whose vaccines are between the **7th and 9th day after inoculation** and found to be genuine and legitimate. The names of those whose vaccinations are found to be genuine must be entered in authorized books...

#### Article 7

- Principals and directors of all educational institutes and all such schools... shall be responsible to ensure, that **anyone, who is not** demonstrably **vaccinated** or has had the natural smallpox, **is not admitted as an apprentice** for upbringing or teaching

#### Article 9

- **Anyone who is conscripted** to the Royal War Office at Lands or Waters should, when he does not provide proof of being vaccinated, by presenting the arranged certificate, or displaying unmistakable signs of having the natural smallpox, **must be subjected to the vaccination immediately** upon his arrival at service.

#### Article 10

- **When one signs up to be confirmed, who is not vaccinated** nor has had the natural Smallpox, the Priests ought to exhort them, either immediately or **as soon as possible**, to **use the important Preventative** against Smallpox sickness, that the vaccine offers it



for its Life and Health. Then, **starting 1 January 1811, no marriage** ceremony must be made by a priest, **unless the couple**, both the bridegroom and the bride, **prove that they are vaccinated** or have had the natural smallpox.

#### Article 11

- When the natural or children's smallpox outbreaks anywhere in the land of the Kingdom, all residents of the city or cities where the infection has appeared, who are not proven to have had either Smallpox or Cowpox, should be subjected immediately to the vaccination without exception.

#### Article 13

- Then also the houses or farms or the merchants in which the smallpox disease may turn out must be made immediately known by the fact that **a printed or written note containing the words "Here is children's smallpox" is affixed to the street door** or gate and notes attached to all the entrances to the family's rooms with which the sick resides; and the police officer in every place strictly adhere to the fact that these notes remain untouched until the district physician, and in Copenhagen the city physicist, allow in writing their removal.

#### Article 15

- Any housefather or housewife shall, as soon as Signs of Children's Smallpox appear in their houses, promptly make a statement thereon, in the countryside to the local priest or the parish bailiff... in the cities to the city doctor; and in Copenhagen to the police officer or city physicist... **Lack of such a notification imposes on the guilty house father or house mother punishment, from 8 days' imprisonment on water and bread up to 3 months of work in the improvement house**

#### Article 18

- The precautionary rules... in respect of other epidemic diseases must also be extended to smallpox... These precautions are: no stranger must come to reside with the sick; that marriages and all other interactions are forbidden; **that the dead are buried within 48 hours of death**, in the same clothes in which they died, and in coffins which the inside is tarred or sealed, and buried 4 Alen (8 feet) below the earth; and finally: that neither the Funeral Processions nor the Funeral Feasts are allowed.

### Genealogical Value of Vaccination Records

- Vaccination records provide the following:
  - Name of the Child
  - Name of the Father (or Mother if illegitimate)
  - Age
  - Parish of Residence
  - Hamlet of Residence
- List all people who haven't had smallpox, regardless of gender or class
- Act as a substitute to missing parish records
- Can identify missing daughters born between 1801 and 1814 not included in the military records

### **Accessing the Records**

- The Family History Library has vaccination records from Sjælland and Fyn
  - Sjælland's Records are under "vaccinationsprotokol"
  - Fyn's Records are under "vaccinationsprotokoller"
- Records from Jutland are available in the Danish State Archives and must be ordered
  - Search for "vaccination" at [www.sa.dk/daisy](http://www.sa.dk/daisy)
- Records are kept by the "læge distrikt" (doctor district)
- To determine the correct district, use [www.digdag.dk](http://www.digdag.dk)